

CarVup? What's the Connection?

written by dreamkatcha

Listen you, this is serious. I've been pondering the origins of the name CarVup, Core Design's vehicle-based Amiga/Atari ST platform game, ever since 1990 and enough is enough. I know, it's an affliction demanding urgent attention and resolution, hence the last-ditch investigation.



Part of the enduring dilemma is that no-one knows for sure how to pronounce the damn thing. Is it carve-up, emphasising the capital V? Or is the V entirely silent owing to it not being a component of the title at all, merely

decoration? A recreation of a genuine vehicle manufacturer's trademark badge?



Announced or not, the V appears to be an allusion to Chrysler's V8 gasoline hemispherical combustion chamber engine as initially featured in their DeSoto and Dodge models between 1951 and 1958.



Incidentally (or not?), the DeSoto is the car Jimmy Stewart drives in Alfred Hitchcock's 1958 psychological thriller, *Vertigo*. Which would make perfect sense given that Arnie - the star of CarVup - spends his days traversing the dizzying heights of high-rise girder structures and whatnot, an expression of sheer terror permanently lodged upon his anxiety-ridden anthropomorphic face.



Of course, he'd rather be at home with his wheels up, watching *Herbie Rides Again*, yet Arnie has an exigent engagement; to put the kibosh on Captain/Borgus Grim's nefarious scheme. That being to kidnap Arnie's chums and - in cahoots with his army of malevolent Looney Toons - supplant all the super-niceness in Cartoon World with the filth of evil dredged from his degenerate heart.



Likewise, Arnold 'Arnie' Cunningham is the (human) lead of Stephen King's 'when cars attack' horror novel and movie adaptation, Christine, which possibly not so coincidentally stars a 1958 Plymouth Fury courtesy of Chrysler.



Fitted with a V8 engine, it naturally sports the iconic V grill badge, so is potentially another source of inspiration for CarVup. Only vehicular Arnie is far less inclined to brutally

maim or annihilate human traffic. Quite a relief since Core Design's CarVup was aimed at ickle kiddie winkles who wouldn't have appreciated blood-splurting slashed necks etc.



Otherwise, Carl - as our protagonist was alternatively and interchangeably known according to some reviewers - may have been named after one of the engineers who co-founded Chrysler, Carl Breer. Why he was subsequently rechristened Arnie is a mystery, appropriately enough.

All of which advances our inquiry... how exactly? Is Carl (Carlotta to the Vertigo fans) or Arnie metaphorically 'carving up' his platforming environment, filling in the rivet holes, painting or depainting the town red, or whatever? Is Car-Up sans V the automobile substitute for 1-Up, the vernacular term for collecting an extra life in video games? Perchance

he's a homage to Benny the Cab, everyone's favourite convertible Roger Rabbit sidekick?



Even looking to the City fails to reveal a conclusive Connection so it would appear that I've thoroughly wasted your time.



With the Turbo Demon - on loan from Ghouls 'n' Ghosts - looming on the horizon we're surely all doomed.

